

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently amended) A substantially water-free thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 65 to about 80% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about 35 to about 20% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.
2. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein a 4% in water solution of the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol at 20°C has a viscosity of less than about 20 centipoise.
3. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 2, wherein a 4% in water solution of the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol at 20°C has a viscosity of less than about 10 centipoise.
4. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a hydrolysis of less than about 95%.
5. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 4, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a hydrolysis of less than about 90%.
6. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a weight-average molecular weight of less than about 140,000.
7. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 6, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a weight-average molecular weight of less than about 60,000.

8. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a melt viscosity at a shear rate of 500 s^{-1} of less than about 1500 Pa•s.

9. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 2.0 percent by weight of water.

10. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 1.0 percent by weight of water.

11. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 0.5 percent by weight of water.

12. (Previously amended) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from polystyrene-polybutadiene-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-polyisoprene-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-poly(ethylene-butylene)-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-poly(ethylene-propylene)-polystyrene block polymer, elastomeric polyurethanes, ethylene-octene copolymers, polyester polyurethane, natural rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene terpolymers, silicone rubber, polyurethane rubber, thermoplastic rubbers, elastomeric block copolymers, polyethylene oxide-polybutylene terephthalate copolymers, polyamide-polyether block copolymers, styrene block copolymers, elastomeric polypropylene, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article is a film.

16. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article is a fiber.

17. (Currently amended) A thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 65 to about 80% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about 35 to about 20% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 2.0 percent by weight of water.

18. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein a 4% in water solution of the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol at 20°C has a viscosity of less than about 20 centipoise.

19. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 18, wherein a 4% in water solution of the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol at 20°C has a viscosity of less than about 10 centipoise.

20. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a hydrolysis of less than about 95%.

21. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 20, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a hydrolysis of less than about 90%.

22. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a weight-average molecular weight of less than about 140,000.

23. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 22, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a weight-average molecular weight of less than about 60,000.

24. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol has a melt viscosity at a shear rate of 500 s^{-1} of less than about 1500 Pa•s.

25. (Previously amended) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from polystyrene-polybutadiene-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-polyisoprene-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-poly(ethylene-butylene)-polystyrene block polymer, polystyrene-poly(ethylene-propylene)-polystyrene block polymer, elastomeric polyurethanes, ethylene-octene copolymers, polyester polyurethane, natural rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene terpolymers, silicone rubber, polyurethane rubber, thermoplastic rubbers, elastomeric block copolymers, polyethylene oxide-polybutylene terephthalate copolymers, polyamide-polyether block copolymers, styrene block copolymers, elastomeric polypropylene, and mixtures thereof.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic article is a film.

29. (Original) The thermoplastic article of Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic article is a fiber.

30. (Currently amended) A substantially water-free blend composition consisting essentially of from about 65 to about 80% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about 35 to about 20% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.

31. (Original) A personal care article comprising the composition of Claim 1.
32. (Original) The personal care article of Claim 31, wherein the personal care article is a diaper.
33. (Original) The personal care article of Claim 31, wherein the personal care article is a feminine pad.
34. (Original) The personal care article of Claim 31, wherein the personal care article are training pants.
35. (Original) The personal care article of Claim 31, wherein the personal care article is an adult incontinence product.
36. (New) A substantially water-free blend composition comprising an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and a thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the unmodified polyvinyl alcohol constitutes a major portion of the blend composition.
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